

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, The student-athlete represents a role model worthy of emulation by America's youth; and,

WHEREAS, The past athletic successes of many of America's business, governmental and educational leaders dispel the myth that successful athletes are one-dimensional; and,

WHEREAS, Such worthy values and behaviors as perseverance, teamwork, self-discipline and commitment to a goal are fostered and promoted by both academic and athletic pursuits; and,

WHEREAS, Participation in athletics, together with education, provides opportunities to develop valuable social and leadership skills and to gain an appreciation of ethnic and racial groups different from one's own; and,

WHEREAS, In spite of all the positive aspects of sport, overemphasis on sports at the expense of education can cause serious harm to an athlete's future; and,

WHEREAS, The pursuit of victory in athletics among our nation's schools and colleges too often leads to exploitation and abuse of the student-athlete; and,

WHEREAS, Less than 1 in 100 high school athletes ever play Division I college athletics; and,

WHEREAS, While college athletes in general graduate at the same rate as other students, less than 30 percent of scholarship athletes in revenue producing sports ever graduate; and,

WHEREAS, Only 1 in 100,000 high school athletes who dream of a career in professional sports ever realize that aspiration, while those who do can expect a professional sports career of less than four years; and,

WHEREAS, Thousands of America's youth sacrifice academic achievement to the dream of professional athletics; and,

WHEREAS, The common practice of keeping athletes eligible for participation on a team--even at the high school level--must be abandoned for a policy of ensuring a meaningful education and degree; and,

WHEREAS, Coaches, parents and educators of student-athletes must express high expectations for academic performance, as well as for athletic performance; and,

WHEREAS, There is a need in this nation to re-emphasize the "student" in the term "student athlete;"

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE S. MICKELSON, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 6, 1989, as

STUDENT ATHLETE DAY

in South Dakota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand and caused to be
affixed the Great Seal of the State
of South Dakota, in Pierre, the
Capital City, this Twenty-Ninth Day
of March, in the Year of Our Lord,
Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Nine

George S. Mickelson
GEORGE S. MICKELSON, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Joyce HazelTine
JOYCE HAZELTINE, SECRETARY OF STATE